

The Current

Winter 2023 - 2024



VILLAGE OF
Menomonee Falls

A Time to Reflect & Look Ahead

Join us in looking back on a busy 2023
and looking forward to the year to come
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Centennial Plaza

Connect with us!

262-532-4200

menomonee-falls.org



VILLAGE HALL

W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-3140

262-532-4200

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Offices Closed

Christmas
12/25/23 & 12/26/23

New Years Day
1/1/2024

VILLAGE BOARD

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QUICK CONTACTS

Village Manager.....	532-4240
Public Works.....	532-4700
Police Business Office.....	532-8700
Fire & EMS Business Office.....	532-8800
Non-Emergency Dispatch.....	446-5070
Clerk Services.....	532-4201
Engineering & Development.....	532-4400
Building Inspector.....	532-4282



A Time to Reflect & Look Ahead

As the end of the calendar year approaches, it is a good time to reflect on some noteworthy Village happenings from 2023 and to look ahead to what we can expect in 2024.

Menomonee Falls strengthened its reputation as a regional destination this year with a full slate of successful community events and the opening of the Village Park splash pad and accessible play area. The growing Farmers Market and the summer concert series contributed to an estimated 225,000+ people visiting Village Park in 2023! We welcomed a new hotel on Falls Parkway and a new restaurant in the heart of downtown, and we approved building permits for a major mixed-use development at the corner of Good Hope and Appleton Avenue.

The Village also took important steps in 2023 to ensure effective and sustainable public services for our community. We committed to the hiring of 14 full-time firefighters, coordinated a community-wide property revaluation, completed a water main replacement on Pilgrim Road, and approved a storm water utility fee to comply with state laws and maintain our growing storm water infrastructure.

2024 is expected to be another busy year in Menomonee Falls for development, public projects, and community events. The Village has a growing inventory of residential lots, approvals in place for major commercial projects, and plans to update the look and layout of Centennial Plaza. We will also be rolling out the storm water utility fee, conducting the 2024 elections, and welcoming hundreds of new residents to the Village. With our continued steady growth, Menomonee Falls' population is likely to exceed 40,000 in the next couple of years.

As we head into 2024, this edition of *The Current* newsletter provides timely information about Village winter operations, an overview of the storm water utility fee, updates on development projects, and seasonal safety reminders from the Police Department and Fire Department. It also highlights community partner organizations, winter events, and volunteer opportunities to consider during the coldest time of the year. Thank you for taking some time to learn about what is happening in Menomonee Falls. Stay safe, and stay warm!



Ideas for Enjoying our Winter Wonderland

Keep active and engaged this winter season by checking out some of these local events and activities!

- **Christmas in the Falls**
Shop the Falls first this winter while you check out Saturday events in Menomonee Falls Downtown District through December 16th! Learn about the 2023 Christkindl Market and other holiday season happenings at www.christmasinthefalls.com
- **Light Up Village Park**
The Chamber of Greater Menomonee Falls and Sussex is working with local businesses to create a new holiday light display at Village Park this December! Stop by to see the display (through January 1st), and stay to enjoy the fully illuminated Village Park All-Children's Play Area and warm up at a local restaurant or retailer. Learn more at business.gmfchamber.com/events
- **Chocolate Walk**
Indulge your sweet tooth and support downtown businesses with the second annual Chocolate Walk event on February 9th and 10th! Each participating business will delight you with a scrumptious chocolate item for your box. Treat yourself or surprise your special someone with these heavenly chocolates on Valentine's Day! For more information visit menomoneefallsdowntown.com/events
- **Explore Parks & Trails Across Menomonee Falls**
As the snow flies, local parks are transformed into winter playgrounds! Winter is a great time to check out some of the dozens of [public parks and trails in Menomonee Falls](#). Get around by hiking, biking (fat tires help), and sledding. An ice skating rink will be available at Riverside Park as conditions allow. Need a race to jump start your 2024 fitness routine? The [Flannel 5k / 10k](#) will be held on February 17th in Menomonee Park.
- **Volunteer for Neighbors in Need**
Winter weather creates extra challenges for seniors and adults with disabilities. Consider signing up with [Eras Senior Network](#) to help reduce social isolation and provide transportation for medical appointments, food pantries, and other essential services. The Village also encourages all residents to support older neighbors this winter by checking in and shoveling snow following storm events.



Centennial Plaza
Christmas tree, 2022

Take in the Christmas Spirit in Downtown

Main Street and Appleton Avenue are adorned with wreaths, lights, garland, and tons of holiday decor. Stroll the sidewalks, window shop, and stop by the Centennial Plaza Christmas tree! Visit local businesses to buy gifts and warm up with food, drinks, and hospitality.



Menomonee River Parkway Trail
at Mill Pond Park



As winter approaches, we know residents might have some questions about how the Village responds to snow and ice events. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to our Public Works Department at pw@menomonee-falls.org or 262-532-4700.

Report a missed snow removal or damage at menomonee-falls.org/report

Winter Operations in Menomonee Falls

When does Public Works come out to plow?

We have over 30 Public Works and Utilities operators that work long hours throughout the winter to ensure that our streets are plowed and treated as efficiently as possible.

Snow and ice operations begin when any of the following conditions are met:

- Snow accumulation of 2" or more is expected
- Drifting snow is causing hazardous travel conditions
- Icy conditions are adversely affecting travel
- Time of snowfall is affecting peak travel times

What is the goal of snow and ice operations?

The immediate objective of snow and ice control operations is to maintain reasonably safe driving conditions during and following storm events. This does not, however, mean that bare pavement should be expected by motorists, nor does this mean that all streets will be free of snow and ice. Motorists and pedestrians are expected to take necessary precautions and to observe safe winter driving habits. Keep in mind that our snow and ice operations focus on the heavily-traveled roadways in Menomonee Falls, such as Main Street, Appleton Avenue, and Menomonee Avenue. All subdivisions will be plowed, but will only be salted on hills, curves, and intersections due to lower speed limits and less travel on these streets.

Will winter weather affect waste and recycling collection?

Please be aware that freezing temperatures may delay waste and recycling pickup services from Waste Management. Severe temperatures can cause equipment issues which can lead to delays. Please note that waste and recycling receptacles should be placed at least three (3) feet away from each other and other objects. During the winter, please use your driveway or clear an area along the side of your driveway to place your carts.

Do I have to clear the sidewalk in front of my house?

It is the owner's responsibility to clear the concrete sidewalk in front of the property and treat with salt or sand if ice has formed. The Village clears sidewalks in front of Village property, as well as some parts of the downtown area. Asphalt trails are not considered sidewalks, so snow clearance is not required.

What else do I need to know about Winter Operations?

- Snow should not be shoveled or blown into the street
- Do not pull up behind snow plows when they are equipped and engaged for snow removal.
- Snow plows may cause damage to turf adjacent to streets and sidewalks. Turf that has been damaged and reported will be repaired in the spring. The Village will not be responsible for damage as a result of the use of sand or de-icing chemicals or for damage to landscaping, sprinkler systems, or any other private items located in the public right-of-way.
- The Village encourages residents to clear the snow from any fire hydrants near your house.
- Residents are asked to check the condition of their mailbox and post – in most cases, a strong post and secure mailbox will withstand the impact of snow coming off of the snowplow.
- Refer to our [As the Snow Falls flyer](#) for more information about snow events.

Election Information & New Year Reminders



Voting Information

Make sure you are registered and ready to vote by visiting myvote.wi.gov.

MyVote is a great tool allowing voters to register online, update a name or address, request an absentee ballot, find a polling place, and see what is on the ballot.



2024 Election Schedule

- February 20th - Spring Primary Election (if required)
- April 2nd - Spring Election & Presidential Preference Vote
- August 13th - Partisan Primary Election
- November 5th - General Election

For more voting information, follow the links below.

- Wisconsin Election Commission: elections.wi.gov
- Menomonee Falls elections and voting page: menomonee-falls.org/1140/elections-voting

Become an Election Official

The Village of Menomonee Falls needs election workers for the upcoming 2024 election season. Citizen involvement is essential for conducting open, accurate, and fair elections.

Election workers conduct a variety of assigned duties at the polling site on Election Day.

These duties include:

- Assigning voters a number in the poll books
- Issuing ballots
- Assisting voters and providing instruction as necessary

As we wrap up the 2023 elections, the Clerk Services staff would like to acknowledge all of our election workers by saying thank you! Your dedicated service allows us to continue our mission of administering successful elections.

Do you still have questions about voting and elections in Menomonee Falls?

Call 262-532-4201 or email vote@menomonee-falls.org for more information.

Park Shelter Reservations

Park reservations resume on January 2nd, 2024 and must be made in-person at Village Hall. Please note that some Village Park reservations are made through [Menomonee Falls Downtown](#) and Old Falls Village Park reservations are made through the [Menomonee Falls Historical Society](#).

For further information, please call 262-532-4201 or visit menomonee-falls.org/parkreservations

2024 Dog Licenses

2023 dog licenses expire December 31st, 2023. To license your dog for 2024, submit a completed [application for dog license](#) and a \$10 fee per dog (\$15 for unneutered/unspayed dogs) to the Clerk Services Department. After March 31st, fees increase to \$15 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$20 for unneutered/unspayed dogs.

Storm Water Utility Fee Explained

STORM WATER FAQs

Learn more about why storm water matters, what the Village does to address storm water issues, and see further details on the proposed storm water utility by viewing our [Storm Water Utility Fee web page](#)

In recent years, storm water management has placed a growing financial burden on communities across the region. To pay for increasing costs, many municipalities in Wisconsin have implemented user fees for storm water management services. These new charges are called storm water fees or **storm water utility fees** because they are modeled after the way municipalities have historically billed residents for other utility services like water and sewer. Storm water fees provide local governments with a stable source of revenue to pay for their growing storm water management costs.

Developed land generates tremendous amounts of storm water that causes property damage and water pollution if it's not managed properly. On an acre-per-acre basis, developed areas generate more storm water runoff than rural areas because they contain more hard structures like rooftops, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks and roads. These hard surfaces are called impervious, because they prevent precipitation from soaking into the ground.

Why does storm water management cost money?

To manage excess storm water that's generated, Menomonee Falls has built a storm water management system consisting of ditches, catch basins, inlets, underground pipes, and other interconnected structures designed to move storm water out of inhabited areas. The storm water systems most of us take for granted are getting more expensive to design, construct, and maintain. Other infrastructure needs to be expanded to handle increased storm water loads from development and more frequently occurring large rainstorms.

An increasing number of suburban municipalities are now required to obtain storm water discharge permits from the DNR to comply with state and federal laws. These "permitted communities" must develop storm water management

programs and implement best management practices, including public education, to reduce pollution levels in the storm water they discharge into local waterways. Meeting these discharge permit requirements adds significant cost.

Municipalities require additional revenue from stable sources which basically leaves two options: raising taxes or implementing fees. New fees are the preference because compared to new tax dollars, fee revenue is easier to:

1. Apply to all properties that generate storm water runoff, and
2. Calculate in a fair and equitable manner.

Storm water fees are considered enterprise or dedicated funds. This means the money from the fees can only go toward storm water management related activities. Tax money on the other hand, is subject to competition from other municipal programs. Fee programs apply to everyone who uses the billed service.

So, under a user fee program, all storm water producing properties, even those owned by tax exempt organizations like public schools, universities, churches, and other nonprofits, must still pay the fee. Finally, storm water rates are easier to calculate fairly using a fee structure instead of relying on tax criteria like assessed property values, which don't correlate well to the actual amount of storm water a property generates.

Storm Water Utility Fee Continued...

How are storm water fees calculated?

Storm water fees in Wisconsin are based on the amount of impervious cover a property contains. Roofs, driveways, patios, and parking lots all usually count towards the total, but public sidewalks and roadways are not factored in. Properties with more impervious cover generate more storm water runoff which puts a greater demand on the municipal storm water system, compared to properties with less impervious cover. Because properties with lots of impervious surface require more storm water service, they pay larger storm water fees.

Municipalities use different approaches to estimate the impervious cover on each of the residential, commercial and institutional properties. In some instances, property measurements are taken in the field but, more often, they use aerial imagery and computer software to calculate coverages from the office. Municipalities often calculate a representative value to project the runoff from their residential properties. This is done by carefully measuring the impervious cover from a sample of typical single-family residential parcels to determine a median area measured in square feet. This value is called an ERU, short for **Equivalent Residential Unit**.



The ERU represents a base billing unit. Properties with lots of impervious cover may be charged multiple ERUs, and all single family properties will be counted as one ERU.

A monthly storm water fee of \$5.74 per ERU (\$68.88 annually) was approved at the September 18, 2023 Village Board meeting for implementation starting the first quarter of 2024.

More information on municipal storm water fees can be found at: extension.psu.edu/what-is-a-municipal-stormwater-fee

Christmas Tree Disposal

The deadline for all natural Christmas trees to be set out by the road is Sunday, January 14th. Trees will automatically be picked up as time permits – no appointments are necessary. Discarded natural Christmas trees must be clean of all decorations, lights, stands, tinsel, garland, wire, plastic bags, etc. Discarded Christmas wreaths must be disposed of in the garbage along with regular trash.



Public Works Resident Guide

View our Public Works Resident Guide online at www.menomonee-falls.org/residentguide for helpful information regarding garbage & recycling services, disposal of various household items and bulk items, yard waste, parks, winter operations, and more. Our Resident Guide is a great resource for both new residents and current residents of the Village.



Approximately 350 people have moved into the Village each year over the last two decades

Construction & Development Projects



Public Projects

Capital projects which improved public spaces, streets, and infrastructure in 2023 included the Pilgrim Road water main replacement, development of Aero Park, the Roman Drive and Ridgeview Drive street reconstructions, and several utility projects.

Overview of 2023 Infrastructure Projects

- Pilgrim Road water main reconstruction
- 1.7 miles of new streets in five residential subdivisions
- 0.4 miles of reconstructed streets and 2.5 miles of asphalt repaving
- 5.3 miles of water main and 3.5 miles of sanitary sewer
- 1.8 miles of new asphalt trails at Aero Park and near new residential subdivisions



A new pedestrian activated cross-walk system on Shady Lane

Aero Park Phase I

This project included grading and site preparation, prairie / wetland restoration, tree planting, and the installation of an asphalt trail loop with a wooden boardwalk section. The trail loop is now open to the public but parking access is currently limited to streets in the adjacent Tamarind and Aero Park subdivisions. Future phases will include a parking area, playground, restrooms, picnic shelters, and sport courts. These improvements are anticipated to be constructed over the next five years.

Aero Park is being developed to provide a community park and green space in southwest Menomonee Falls. This project will provide outdoor recreational opportunities for thousands of new and long-time residents.



Aero Park boardwalk segment in October, 2023

Private Sector Projects

Both the residential and commercial development sectors remained strong in Menomonee Falls in 2023 with dozens of major projects adding homes, value, and new jobs to the Village.



Rendering of the Falls Mixed Use project at Good Hope Road and Appleton Avenue

2023 Year in Review



Menomonee Falls remained among the regional leaders for home construction in 2023. Through October, the Village had issued permits for 13 percent of the new housing units constructed in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area.



Wisconsin Shower Door addition



Luther Group industrial building

- **5 new buildings** are under construction in the Falls Mixed-Use project along Good Hope Road
- Projects by Wisconsin Shower Door, Luther Group, Guidepost Montessori, and Falls Mixed Use will add dozens of jobs to the Village



Duet Apartments



Tamarind Subdivision Addition No. II

- **70 single family homes** 14 duplex units, and 173 market rate apartment units have been approved through November of 2022
- **New construction value will exceed \$100 million** for the **10th consecutive year**



Some of the 12 duplex units constructed in the Evergreen Fields subdivision in 2023



New streets and a new home at Sandhill Meadow subdivision

For more information on these and other development projects, see menomonee-falls.org/development



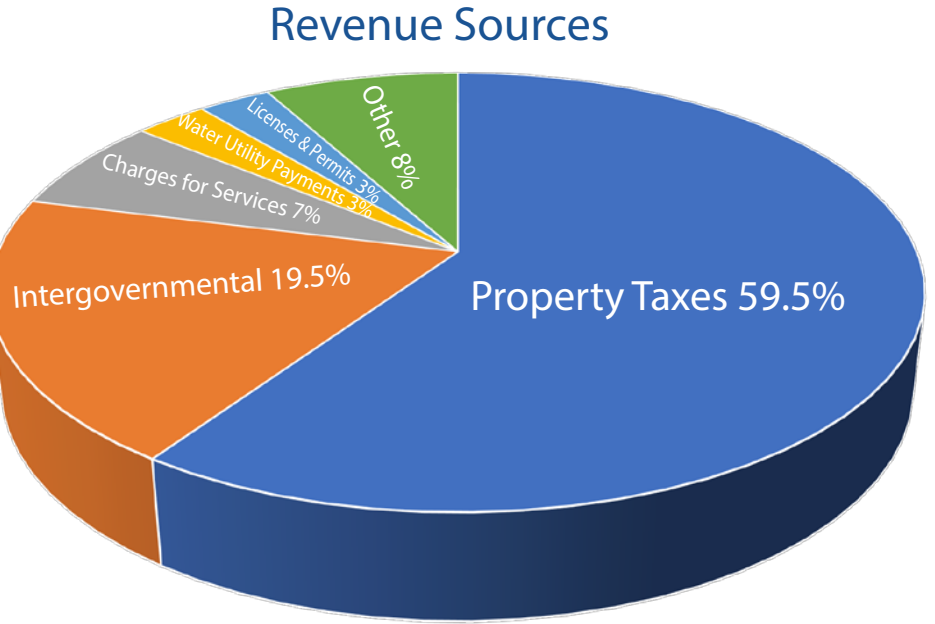
2024 General Operating Budget Overview

Key Budget Details

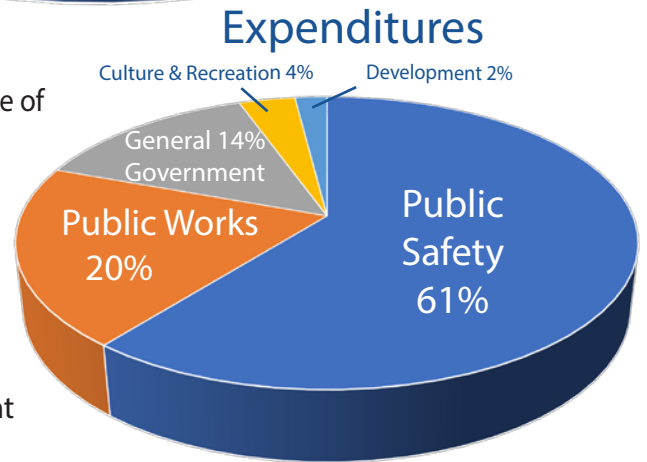
- Mill rate decreased to \$3.80 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 20.2% General Operating Budget increase (SAFER grant revenue & expenditures included)
- Village tax levy increase 8.3%
- Health insurance decrease of 14%, savings of \$200k
- Garbage & Recycling fee increase of \$4.92
- No change in Sewer and Water rate in 2024

Summary

The 2024 General Operating Budget was adopted on November 20th, 2023 with total revenues and expenditures of \$37,868,600, which is a 20.2% increase from 2023. The budget reflects the Village's mission to provide the highest quality municipal services consistent with the changing needs and desires of the community and a realistic assessment of resources



available. The primary source of financing for the General Operating Budget (59.5%) comes from property taxes. Village spending for operations includes general government, police, fire, public works, development and parks operations.



2024 Village Tax Levy

The Village Board adopted a mill rate of \$3.80 and a tax levy of \$27,113,000. The mill rate decreased following the 2023 revaluation, and the levy increased by 8.2 percent. For a typical Menomonee Falls home valued at \$400,000, the owner will pay \$1,520 in Village property taxes in 2024. At a monthly cost of under \$127 for Village services, a typical property owner receives a good value compared to other common household monthly costs.



How is My Property Tax Dollar Spent?





News from the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

Established in 1991



Hear Wisconsin is one of the many 2023 Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation grant recipients

The Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation (GMFF) provides a homegrown, hometown opportunity to support your community. Organized in 1991 by visionary leaders to provide a long-term financial resource for meeting community needs, the Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of civic-minded citizens. As a tax-exempt public trust, the GMFF offers donors an easy and cost-effective way to invest in the community through donations and estate gifts. Earnings from its endowment fund are distributed annually through a grant program supporting safety, health, education, cultural and environmental non-profit groups that work to keep the Village strong and vibrant.

Grants from the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

Since its inception, more than fifty local non-profit groups have benefited from the annual grant program. Over the past ten years, the Foundation has made more than \$250,000 in grants. Organizations that benefited from grants in 2023 include:

- Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh)
- Children's Community Center
- Cream City Charity
- GPS Education Partners
- Variety – The Children's Charity of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association
- Community League Civic Families Committee
- The Women's Center
- HEAR Wisconsin
- Falls Area Community Services Food Pantry
- Falls Patio Players
- Raise and Relish
- Village Park Development: \$10,000 as part of \$50,000 for park renovations
- Wildlife in Need

Learn more about the grant program on our website:

www.fallsfoundation.org/grants

Leadership Awards

Annually, the Foundation hosts Ovation, a celebration of community leaders who have volunteered countless hours for the betterment of the community. This year, the Foundation honored Robin Manke (Lifetime Achievement Award), Monica and Jim Goetter (Shining Star Award), Karl Hornung (Unsung Hero Award), and Dawn Mariscal (Patriotism Award).

Find information on awards and how to nominate a candidate for 2024 under [leadership awards online](#).



Dawn Mariscal, Robin Manke, Karl Hornung, and Monica and Jim Goetter were honored this year

Winter 2023-2024 Programs

CE & Rec

Community Education & Recreation



View the Winter Activity Guide
at fallsrec.org

The Winter 2024 Activity Guide is Here

Our gift to you this holiday season is the [Winter 2024 Activity Guide](#). You should have received a copy in the mail but if you haven't, additional copies are available at the CE & Rec Office, Village Hall, Menomonee Falls Public Library, and Chamber of Commerce. Resident online registration for winter programs begins on Sunday, December 10th at 9 am. For additional information, visit fallsrec.org.

Giving Back This Holiday Season

In November, CE & Rec distributed approximately 1,500 handmade knitted/crocheted afghans, hats, mittens, stuffed animals, and quilts to nine (9) local charities. Members of the community knit and crochet these items throughout the year. Thank you to all who helped make this amazing donation possible! We couldn't do it without you! This program is run strictly on yarn donated to the Community Center. Donations are accepted all year long. A huge thank you to Chick-fil-A of Menomonee Falls for providing complimentary boxed lunches for this wonderful event!

Elf Hunt – Coming in December

Watch our [Facebook page](#) in December for details about the Elf Hunt. We will post pictures of Ernie the Elf exploring Menomonee Falls. See if you can guess where he is!

Winter Break Camps and Clinics

Deck the halls with basketballs and stay active during the holidays with **Milwaukee Bucks Holiday Camps**. Camp runs December 27th & 28th from 1 – 4 pm and is designed for youth ages 7 – 14.

[Register today!](#)

Our **Flag Rugby Winter Break Clinic** will teach basic skills, rules, and game concepts to new or veteran players. Flag Rugby is a fast-moving, non-contact sport with lots of running, passing and scoring. Clinics take place December 27th & 28th and are open to students in grades 2 – 8. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Some of the handmade gloves, hats, and mittens donated to local charities in 2023

Stay Active This Winter – Swim Year-Round at the North Middle School Pool

CE & Rec offers Family Swim and Adult Lap Swim/Water Walking at the North Middle School Pool. The fees are \$3 for children and \$4 for adults. Swim passes and punch cards are also available. Generally, Family Swim is held on Fridays from 5:30 – 7:30 pm and Saturdays from 12:00 – 2 pm. Adult Lap Swim / Water Walking is generally held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4 – 6 pm and Saturdays from 9 – 10 am. Visit our [Aquatics Page](#) for additional information.

More Community Ed & Recreation Programs & Updates

Donate Blood – Save a Life

CE & Rec is proud to partner with Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin to host a number of blood drives throughout the year. Giving blood is a quick, simple way to give back to your community, and possibly save a life. The donation process from the time you arrive to the time you leave is only about an hour. CE & Rec is hosting its next drive on Tuesday, January 2nd from 2 – 7 pm. [Schedule your appointment now](#)



Learn more about blood donations in Wisconsin at [versiti.org/blood-donation-locations/wisconsin](https://www.versiti.org/blood-donation-locations/wisconsin)

Join our Menomonee Falls EGG-CELLENT Egg Hunt

Families are encouraged to join our Menomonee Falls EGG-CELLENT Egg Hunt March 8th – 25th. Hunt around Village businesses searching for a colorful egg with a letter on it. Collect all the letters and decode the hidden phrase. All correct answers will be put into a drawing to win a basket filled with fabulous prizes from the participating businesses. [Register](#) starting December 10th at 9 pm.

Join the CE & Rec Team

CE & Rec is looking for energetic team members to fill a number of positions now and this coming summer. If you, or someone you know, are interested we would love to hear from you. Available positions include:

- School Age Program Supervisor (Full Time)
- Youth Sports Staff
- Basketball Scorekeeper
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor
- Kids INC Site Supervisor
- Kids INC Leader



Participants from the 2023 EGG-CELLENT Egg Hunt

If one of the positions listed above isn't for you, we are always looking for new and exciting classes to add to our catalog. If you have a hobby, unique skill or talent, own a small business, or have other ideas for a class give us a call! Visit our [employment page](#) for more information.

A Message from the Menomonee Falls Farmers Market

THANK YOU to our valued vendors, musicians, customers, and volunteers for making the 2023 Menomonee Falls Farmers Market a success! We look forward to seeing you again in the spring (starting June 5th) for the 2024 season.



Library Corner

Seasonal Updates & Initiatives of Menomonee Falls Public Library



Children's Program Highlights

Noon Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 30th, 11 am - 12:30 pm
Ring in 2024 at noon with games, crafts, music, and activities for the whole family!

LEGO Club – Special Edition Featuring Mad Science!

Wednesday, December 27th, 2 – 3 pm
Calling all LEGO enthusiasts! Mad Science of Milwaukee will help you reach for the sky when they teach you how to build a working elevator out of LEGOs. This program is best suited for children ages 7 – 13.

Family Indoor Games Day

Saturday, January 27th, 10 am – 12 pm
Shake off the winter blues with a day of indoor family games! Beanbags, Ring Toss, Ladderball, and more!

Leap Day Family Volunteering Event

Thursday, February 29th, 6 – 8 pm
Spend your extra day doing a bit of extra good! Kids ages 5-12 and their families are invited to spend part of your bonus day making fleece tie blankets to donate to a local organization. The library will provide all materials and take care of the logistics – all we need from you are helping hands!

Forge Art Show

Are you curious about what we do in the Forge? On Saturday, December 9th, from 12 – 3 pm, everyone is invited to browse artworks and craft projects created by our patrons over the past year. No registration is required.



For more information on the many programs and services offered by the Library, visit www.menomoneefallslibrary.org/

Adult Library Program Highlights

Winter Reading Program Kick-Off

Our Adult Winter Reading Challenge will run from December 18th through February 18th. Sign up at menomoneefallslibrary.beanstack.org to track your reading, earn badges, and get entry tickets towards prizes! We'll kick off the fun in the Library Community Room on Monday, December 18th, from 2 – 4:30 pm, by watching a holiday movie, enjoying refreshments, and making paper mug holders. Please [register for this event](#) in advance.

The Magic of Meditation

The benefits of meditation are striking... everything from improving relationships, enhancing the immune system, increasing resiliency, managing stress and anxiety, and improving brain function. In this Badger Talk, psychologist Bob McGrath will discuss how meditative practice can have a positive effect on individuals. Join us on Monday, January 8th, at 6:30 pm, in the Community Room for this presentation.

Please [register for the event](#) in advance.

Understanding the Opioid Epidemic

Dr. Christine Boxhorn, a board-certified anesthesiologist and addictionologist at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will shed light on the historical and local evolution of the opioid epidemic, explore potential opportunities for combating the crisis, and summarize insights from her newly published book. This presentation will take place in the Community Room on Thursday, February 22nd, at 6 pm. Please [register for the program](#) in advance.



Dr. Boxhorn is an Assistant Professor at the Medical College of WI and specializes in addiction medicine and treatment

List of Attractions in the Falls Continues to Grow

Nearly 200,000 people visited Village Park between May 15th and October 15th this year. The completion of the Village Park improvements, including the accessible play area, splash pad, tennis and pickleball courts, as well as dozens of community events including the Menomonee Falls Farmers Market, Lavender Fest, Falls Movie Nights, Summer Concerts and Beer Gardens created a wonderful buzz. The year isn't over though – Christmas in the Falls (www.christmasinthefalls.com) is held downtown on four consecutive Saturdays leading up to Christmas.

With the weather getting cooler, Menomonee Falls also has many unique indoor entertainment venues. Why not try the Garcade (www.thegarcade.com), a classic retro arcade with plenty of pinball machines to keep you and the kids busy? If that's not your vibe, try Just Kiln Time (www.justkilntimepottery.com) where you can create your own one-of-a-kind pottery. If adventure is more your mood, try the escape rooms or ax throwing at Team Escape 262 (www.teamescape262.com). Menomonee Falls also has three bowling alleys to break-up the winter blues!



Ax throwing lanes at Team Escape 262

Christmas in the Falls

Shop Falls First this Holiday Season



December 9th
10am-5pm

Everything German and
 Christmas awaits you in
 Menomonee Falls Downtown



- Indoor & Outdoor Vendors
- German Food and Music
- German Dancing
- Carriage Rides
- Beer Stein Lift Contest
- **Gluhwein!**

Presented by



Come visit Santa
 in his workshop!
 11am-3pm



Professional Photos
 Offered!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Centennial Plaza -Main St. & Appleton Ave.

- 10:30-1:30pm Blaskapelle Milwaukee
- 2:00-5:00pm Freistadte Alte Kameraden Band
- 2:00-3:00pm Beer Lift Contest

Makers Market -Main St. & Water St.

- 11:00-3:00pm Accordion Music- Keith Gennerman

By the Waterfall -Main St.

- 12:00-3:00pm Carriage Rides



Christmasinthefalls.com



Menomoneefallsdowntown.com
 @menomoneefallsdowntown





Waukesha County Park System



Seasonal Gifts & Activities

Purchase Your 2024 Annual Invisible* Sticker for Waukesha County Park and Lake Access Memberships

*DISCLAIMER: Invisible stickers don't really exist. You won't get a cute windshield sticker from us like in previous years. That's history! Now, your annual membership is verified by our neat license plate scanner when you enter. You can always tell your friends there's an invisible sticker on your windshield anyway. They'll be impressed.

Enjoy easier access to your favorite Waukesha County park or lake for 365+ days with your "invisible" sticker! Memberships are valid from the date of purchase through December 31st, 2024. For more information visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/parkentry

Give the Gift of Waukesha County Golf

Get a FREE 9 - Hole Voucher with \$150 Purchase in Golf Gift Cards or Pro Shop merchandise! Offer valid through December 23, 2023. Order online by Thursday, December 15th to have gift cards in the mail by Monday, December 19th. The free 9 - hole golf voucher will be valid during the 2024 golf season. The \$150 purchase must be made on the same date. Buy online at activecommunities.com/waukeshacounty

Winter Break Public Ice Skating

At Eble Park or Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arenas
Looking for something fun to do during winter break with the family? Come ice skate indoors with us! Both figure and hockey skates are available to rent.

- Skating Admission: \$6 – with Skate Rental: \$9

waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/ice-arenas/

Winter Activities in the Waukesha County Park System

Outdoor activities continue year-round at our network of parks and trails! These activities include:

- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fat tire biking
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Hiking

2024 Annual Memberships



Give the GIFT of GOLF

For them: \$150 in Golf gift cards and Pro Shop items!
For you: Free nine holes of Waukesha County Golf with your \$150 purchase of Golf gift cards or Pro Shop Merchandise!

GOLF GIFT CARD SPECIAL

Ends December 23, 2023

Winter Activities

Learn more by visiting www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/park-system/winter-activities/



Celebrates 40 Years of Service



The Village of Menomonee Falls is, by most accounts, a very special place for a wide variety of reasons. However, one of the very best reasons is the extraordinary generosity of its residents and neighbors. This is best demonstrated by the formation of the Falls Area Food Pantry which is celebrating 40 years of service to the residents of eight communities. The Pantry serves residents from Brookfield, Butler, Colgate, Hubertus, Germantown, Lannon, Menomonee Falls, and Richfield.

The Pantry began its formation in February of 1983 when the Falls Area Christian Taskforce (F.A.C.T.) met to discuss ways to serve families in need in their communities. One short month later, the Falls Area Food Pantry was opened on March 3rd, and it operated from its first site located at Lincoln School until late 1985. Subsequent homes included: Thomas Jefferson School (1985-1990); Valley View School (1990 -1995); St. Anthony Catholic Church (1995-1996) and Hiawatha School (1996-2011).

In 2011, the Pantry needed another new home. The Village of Menomonee Falls stepped in and allowed the Pantry to move into the former Sewage Treatment Plant Building on Menomonee River Parkway. During this time, the Pantry was incorporated under the name Falls Area Community Services and raised enough donations to build a warehouse onto the original building where it continues to operate today.

Throughout its first 40 years of service, the Pantry has been operated solely by volunteers. The founding congregations that provided both volunteer and



financial support are: Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Good Shepard Catholic Church, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace, St. Anthony Catholic Church, St. Francis Episcopal Church, St. John United Church of Christ, St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church. Four more congregations joined in supporting these founders. They are: Falls Presbyterian Church, St. Boniface Catholic Church, Legacy Christian Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Clients are able to visit the Pantry twice per month. If anyone is in any need of food or help, please contact the pantry at 262-251-6848 or email info@fallsfoodpantry.org. The Pantry currently operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 2 pm and 5 - 7 pm. In early 2024, the Pantry will resume in-person shopping on Thursdays with Tuesdays remaining as its drive through option. Watch for future announcements regarding the start date for in-person shopping. The Pantry's Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/FallsAreaFoodPantry/

The Pantry is generously supported by private donations from area neighbors from all eight of the communities in its service area. Anyone wishing to support the Pantry may do so either by donating online at www.fallsfoodpantry.org or by mailing a tax-deductible gift to: Falls Area Food Pantry N85 W15382 Menomonee River Pkwy., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. Gifts of any size are sincerely appreciated.



About Eras Senior Network

Eras Senior Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and support seniors, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers in leading meaningful lives. Our clients are supported by volunteers of all ages to help them maintain their independence. Eras helps individuals 55 and older stay engaged in their community through a variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities. One of the biggest ways we engage older adult volunteers is through a variety of programs in the School District of Menomonee Falls and Waukesha.

School Volunteer Programs

Eras' older adult volunteers engage with and support local students in reading, writing, math, social skills, and more through a variety of programming. Here are our most popular programs:

Classroom Tutors: Older adult volunteers are matched up with a classroom to work one-on-one or in small groups with students who need extra help. Volunteers are typically scheduled for at least one day a week for about one hour, some choose to do much more!

Readers Cafe: This is a unique opportunity for students to read with older adult volunteers during their lunch and recess time for an 8 week session. It is designed to encourage an interest in reading, while developing an intergenerational connection and strengthening the students' skills.

Pen Pals: This program is a wonderful way to bring generations together through exchanging letters. Older adult volunteers and students are able to learn from another generation; while helping students practice their reading and writing skills.



Visit [Eras.org](https://www.eras.org) for more information about our services, volunteering, or to make a donation.

Interested?

Waukesha School District
Jon Shelenske: (262) 201-0093
Jon.Shelenske@Eras.org

Menomonee Falls School District
Dawn Hinton: (262) 617-8061
Dawn.Hinton@Eras.org



2023 Year in Review

Highlights from a Busy Event Season at Old Falls Village Park



The 2023 year marked the first year that two non-profits began supporting Old Falls Village Park. Both the Menomonee Falls Historical Society and Friends of Old Falls Village, Inc. are now working together towards preserving history and supporting the grounds of Old Falls Village Park.

A special thanks to the Village of Menomonee Falls for their dedication to protecting the park and supporting the events that happened throughout the year. Thank you also to the community for your support and attendance at all the events at Old Falls Village Park. The park is for you to enjoy!

In addition to the long-established events including the Depot Beer Garden, WWII Days, Old Falls Revolutionary War Days, Civil War Encampment, Silver Tea and Halloween Family Nights, we were happy to present new events in 2023 including the Roaring 20's Jazz Lawn Party, WWI Reenactment, and Fish Fry-days. We look forward to seeing you all again for the 2024 event season at the park.

First Annual WWI Reenactment

New this year at Old Falls Village Park was the WWI Reenactment on the first weekend in October organized by Friends of Old Falls Village Park. In addition to the welcoming sunshine and mild weather, the park was transformed into a living history military encampment, and was well received and highly attended both by reenactors and by visitors. Not only did this immersive historical event bring something new to the park for all to enjoy, but also became one of the most attended first-time events of its kind in the region.

Highlights included a presentation of the Spanish Flu, the big pandemic of WWI, and a performance of Mrs. Edith Wilson, who was the First Lady who ran the Country when President Wilson was unable to perform his duties. While roaming the camps of the Allied and Central Powers and talking with the soldiers, visitors not only reveled in learning about history, but were additionally entertained with the battles! We look forward to seeing you all again for next year's WWI event as well as even more reenactments to come.



Revolutionary War School Days, 2023



A family at the Depot Beer Garden, summer 2023



World War II Days in June 2023

More Old Falls Village Highlights...

Miller-Davidson House Garden Project

Discover the rich history of the Miller-Davidson House at Old Falls Village Park in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. This iconic 1858 farmhouse, once the beloved residence of Emma Davidson, wife of Harley-Davidson co-founder Walter Davidson, is now a cherished part of our heritage.

Under the care of the Village of Menomonee Falls and the Menomonee Falls Historical Society, this historic gem has evolved through the years. Recently the east entrance has been transformed into a beautiful floral garden, reminiscent of its past glory.

In 2024, watch for the highly anticipated white custom pergola to be installed by Friends of Old Falls Village Park to complete this beautiful garden. This pergola will add the final touch to the garden, creating an enchanting space for gatherings, photography, and relaxation in the park's natural beauty.



Miller-Davidson House garden, summer 2023



Light Up VILLAGE PARK

PRESENTED BY MILWAUKEE RADIO ALLIANCE, LLC

102.1 **FONZ 93.3 FM** **B93.3**

Holly Jolly

Mingle & Jingle

December 6

4:30-7:30 pm VILLAGE PARK

SPONSORS

- SERVER
- HORIZON BANK
- apq printing
- Culver's
- MCLARIO FIRM
- five nine
- Fleet Farm

Join Us for ...

- Christmas Lights
- Beer Garden
- Fire Pits
- Music from B93.3 - Milwaukee's Christmas Station
- Complimentary Smores & Hot Chocolate
- Food Trucks
- Cookie Sales
- A Visit from Santa
- Meet and Greet with our Light Partners

A New Holiday Tradition Produced by **THE CHAMBER**

Some Reasons to Visit Village Park this December





Menomonee Falls Fire Department Winter Safety Reminders

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Now that it is officially cold outside, the Menomonee Falls Fire Department wants to remind residents of the importance of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is referred to as the silent killer. It is an odorless and tasteless byproduct of the combustion of fossil fuels. Electric appliances do not emit CO. Low concentrations over an extended period of time are as dangerous as higher concentrations. The life span of a CO detector is different than a smoke detector, making planned replacement vary by manufacturer. For this reason, it is important to read the instructions and save them for future reference.

Increased use of heating and cooking appliances along with more time inside with doors and windows closed can lead to CO levels approaching dangerous levels. In the event of a power outage, generator use is more common in the winter months to stay warm. An improperly vented generator can lead to a rapid buildup of CO.



More information can be found at the US Consumer Product Safety Commission website:
www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center/Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers

Keep The Wreath Green

Menomonee Falls Fire Department places a wreath in front of its stations and illuminates it with green bulbs in a fire safety campaign called Keep The Wreath Green. The goal is to promote fire safety awareness. Every time there is a fire incident in Menomonee Falls one of the wreath bulbs will be changed to red. In 2022 Menomonee Falls was able to keep all the bulbs green! Lets keep this winning streak going. The following tips can help us achieve this goal.

Tree Safety

Keeping a tree fresh and watered could make the difference between losing your house or your life. When displaying your tree, make sure the tree is away from fireplaces and portable heaters. Check the water level daily, and add water as needed. A six foot tree will absorb one gallon of water every two days. Because a heater vent nearby will dry out natural trees, keep those tree stands filled with water, checking them every day.

Lights and Candles

Never use real candles on a natural or artificial tree or near other greenery. Use only lights tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). All lights, new or old, should be inspected for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Turn off all lights prior to going to bed or leaving the house. The lights could short out and start a fire. Decorated light villages, nativity scenes, or electrical scenery should be treated as decorative lights.

Fireplace Safety

Have your chimney and fireplace inspected by a professional to make sure it's clean and free of obstructions. Be sure the fireplace is covered with a metal screen or glass doors to prevent the spread of sparks and fire. Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because of the paper being highly flammable. Dangerous sparks and flying embers are possible. Gather all the gift boxes and discard them with the garbage and recyclable materials. Wait until ash is completely cold before disposing of properly.

By the Numbers - 2023

As of November 2nd, 2023 the MFFD has responded to 4,873 calls for service this year.

Menomonee Falls Fire Department operates **Fleet 428**, a water tank truck referred to as a tender. The tank is mounted on a Peterbilt Model 357 chassis with a capacity of 66,000 pounds. Fleet 428 has a 12 liter displacement, 6 cylinder Caterpillar C-12 diesel engine in it, which produces 425 horsepower. The tank can hold 3,500 gallons of water, which weighs over 29,000 pounds!



Fleet 428 Tanker Tender at Fire Station No. 1

Menomonee Falls At a Glance

Selected statistics about Menomonee Falls

(US Census - 2021 American Community Survey data unless noted)

Population



- Total Population 39,565 (WDOA)
- Growth Rate 2020-2022 +1.9%
- Median Age 41.6
- Under 18 23.4%
- 65 & Older 19.1%

Housing



- Total Housing Units 16,352
- Single Family Units (including duplex) 74.2%
- Apartment Units 15.2%
- Senior Housing Units 10.6%
- Median Sale Price \$377,050 (Zillow.com)

Economy



- Total Jobs 32,687
- Unemployment Rate (Sept. 2023) 3.6%
- Largest Employers
 - Kohl's Corporation 4,000
 - Froedtert & MCW 3,000
 - Harley Davidson 950



Menomonee Falls Police and Fire Departments Join Forces for the Safety of the Community



MFPD and MFFD personnel participating in a combined rescue task force training

The Menomonee Falls Police and Fire Departments share a collective interest in effective and current training practices. Each department concentrates on skill-based training to effectively handle a multitude of situations. Training is crucial particularly when it comes to critical incidents where time is not on our side. Although these incidents occur with less frequency, they have a higher risk of threat to the public. This past fall, our officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians participated in joint training called **rescue task force**.

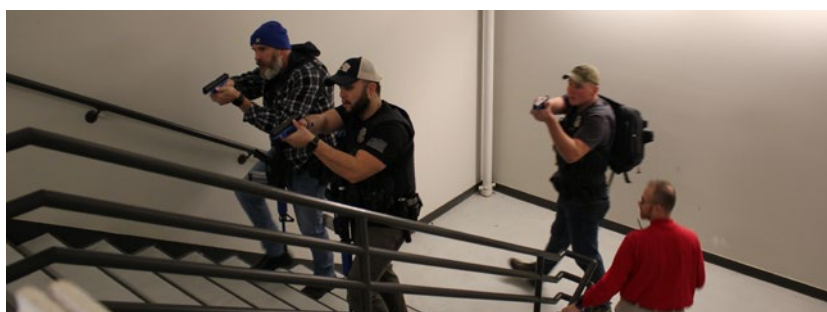
Rescue task force training was created to provide an integrated response with police and fire departments to address a mass casualty incident as a result of an active assailant. The purpose is to provide immediate and life-saving care while ensuring protection of the first responders providing that care. Often times these incidents can be very chaotic for all involved. The guiding principles for our first responders are to stop the threat while treating the injured and saving lives. It provides a framework to bring an organized pre-planned response to minimize the chaos.

This year's training took place at a large vacant office building provided by one of our community partners. This was a real and unknown environment to provide a realistic experience to the first responders. The training was over an 8-hour day and built upon concepts starting with a classroom portion and ending in scenario-based, hands-on training. The training was led by a team of experienced fire and police department trainers.

The planning took several months and every aspect was reviewed and examined to provide an immersive experience. This also included volunteer participants as injured patients requiring care. Police and fire members were shoulder to shoulder and truly worked as a team. There were four training dates and most police and fire members were in attendance.



Volunteers posed as injured patients during the training



The rescue task force training ultimately provided a solid foundation of trained first responders who are prepared for the unexpected in the Village and any community that may require us to respond in similar fashion. A sincere thank you to those trainers that put in a lot of time and effort into the planning and organizing of this rescue task force days.

Out and About in the Falls: Signs of the Season

Shop Local & Support Your Community



- 1 Carolers and Christmas decor at Old Falls Village Park
- 2 The festive window display at Poppy & Thyme on Appleton Avenue
- 3 The holiday spirit on full display at Hanson Soft Water
- 4 The Lunch Box Deli opened this November at the corner of Appleton Avenue and Main Street
- 5 Ernie Elf near the Lepper Dam at Mill Pond Park in 2022 – Hunt for Ernie this December as part of the CE & Recreation Elf Hunt on their [Facebook Page!](#)
- 6 Batter & Mac opened a new location this November on Appleton Avenue near Harvey Moy's restaurant and Thriftopia Resale Store



Centennial Plaza in late November 2023

Winter Calendar

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 @ 10 am

Christkindl Market
German food & drink, music, dancing,
and indoor / outdoor vendor markets
Menomonee Falls Downtown

TUESDAY JANUARY 2 @ 2 pm

CE & Rec. Versiti Blood Drive
Mobile blood drive
Community Center

FRIDAY & SAT. FEBRUARY 9 & 10

Chocolate Walk
Chocolate related specials & activities
at local shops & restaurants
Menomonee Falls Downtown

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20

Spring Primary Election (if needed)
For the location of your polling place
visit myvote.wi.gov or
menomonee-falls.org/1140

Opportunities to Give Back

The Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC) coordinates giving to thousands of families in need through the collection and distribution of donations. Drop off new unwrapped toys at Village Hall and other CCC toy donation locations throughout the county by December 13th, 2023. Learn more at christmasclearingcouncil.org

Falls Area Food Pantry relies solely on donations and the time and talents of volunteers from the community. Consider getting involved this winter by donating food and/or money, hosting a food drive, adopting a shelf or utility (to cover operating expenses), or volunteering at the pantry. Learn more at fallsfoodpantry.org/volunteer

Points of Pride

Menomonee Falls has been recognized as a [Bird City Wisconsin community](#) for the 12th consecutive year in 2023!

The Village is recognized by the UW Population Health Institute as a Silver level Wisconsin Healthy Community. Learn more about this designation at www.wihealthycommunities.org/

Stay Active in 2024!



Back for 2024



Indoor winter markets will be held from 10 am to 2 pm two Saturdays per month at North Middle School



Saturday, December 9th from 10 am - 5 pm



VILLAGE OF
Menomonee Falls

Village of Menomonee Falls
W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-3140

